



The Xenia Institute  
Transformation Through Dialogue



## February Newsletter

Vol. 5, 2010



### February in Full Swing

Hello Friends of Xenia,

Things are getting busy at the institute. Last Thursday, over a hundred of our friends and supporters gathered to honor the fifth recipient of the Sam Matthews Social Justice Award. In the next few days, we'll be posting photos from the event, a couple of pieces of commentary, and a blog on our keynote speech. Stay tuned!

Additionally, The Xenia Institute is officially partnering with the Center for Social Justice and the Women's and Gender Studies Program on an another timely, provocative event. "When It Hits Home: An Evening Concerning Intimate Partner Violence" will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 24, in the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. The event will be held in two segments.

First, "1 in 3," a film produced by OU alumni about domestic violence in Oklahoma, will be screened. A still shot from "1 in 3" is pictured above. Following that, dialogue fellows from The Xenia Institute will lead event attendees in small discussion groups. The purpose of this discussion is not only one of reflection on the film but is also an opportunity to work on potential strategies to

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### Who We Are

The Xenia Institute brings people together, creates a safe space for dialogue and transforms dialogue into action.



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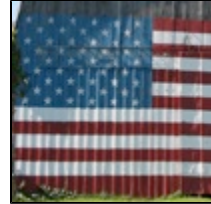
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## American Dream or American Fantasy?

Featured Article series to examine the myths of 'making it' in U.S. society

What is The American Dream, and who gets to participate in it? What are the barriers to achieving that dream? Xenia blogger Caitlin Frazier takes a look at the narrative behind American success -- that anyone can achieve it if they work hard enough, and they can also pass it on to their children. But that narrative is so ubiquitous, Caitlin says, that we sometimes may be blind to how it pushes us forward, and how it leaves many people behind. Caitlin will examine The American Dream in a multi-part Featured Articles series.



The Xenia Institute's Featured Articles provide in-depth and alternative looks at various topics in our society and how they affect us all. New articles are posted on the site regularly, and we invite readers to participate in the online, public discussion about the topics covered in each piece.

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## The State of the Union

President Obama's State of the Union address generated a lot of discussion among pundits and bloggers. Even some of the reporting about the speech got its own news coverage. The Xenia Institute's News & Analysis section featured aggregations of that online chatter that ranged in media voices from the Norman Transcript to The Atlantic.

News & Analysis topics also included discussion on the effectiveness of sex-ed abstinence-only programs, and a tribute to historian Howard Zinn.

Each weekday, The Xenia Institute's News & Analysis publishes links to blog posts and columns that tackle the topics people are talking about. Read Xenia's News & Analysis section here.



## How We Live

Blog series unveils how the automobile helped shape our patterns of living

If you could design your city, your neighborhood or even your block, what would it look like? Xenia blogger John Stuart surveys the design of modern cities and the role they play in shaping how we conduct our lives.

Read more Voices of Xenia blogs here.